Sir

It is with the greatest Concern that I have heard of your Intention to quit the Service of your Country at a Crisis when men of merit can be so ill Spared — You think yourself not justly Dealt with in the Appointments of the Continental Congress. I am quite of the same Opinion, but is this a time Sir, when the Liberties of your Country, the Fate of Posterity and the Rights of Mankind are at Stake to indulge our Resentments for any Ill treatment we may have received as Individuals I have myself, Sir, full as great, perhaps greater, Reason to Complain than yourself. I have passed through the Highest military Ranks, in some of the most Respectable Services of Europe. Acording therefore to the Modern etiquette Notions of a Soldiers Honor and Delicacy, I ought to Consider at least the Preference given to General Ward over me as the Highest Indignity, but I thought it my Duty, as a Citizen and Asserter of Liberty to wave every Consideration of this Nature. — On this Principle, Although a Major General, of five years Standing, and not a Native of America, — I Consented to Serve under General Ward; because I was taught to think that the Confession would be greatful to his Countrymen, and I Flatter myself that the Concession has done me Credit in the Eye of the world, and can you, Sir, born in this very Country which a Banditty of Ministerial Assassins are now attempting utterly to Destroy with Sword, Fire & Famine, abandon the Defence of her because you have been Personally ill Used; ——

For God Almightys Sake, for the Sake of every thing that is Dear, and ought to be Dear to you for the Sake of your Country, of Mankind, and Let me add, of your own Reputation, Discard such ignoble sentiments Consider well the Dreadfull Mischief such a pernicious Example may occasion, Consider well whether such a proceeding may not bring upon your Head the Contempt and abhorrance of that Community which has hitherto most justly held you in the Highest Respect. I Beg you will Excuse the Liberty I take in thus addresing you; and Ascribe it to its true motive a Zeal for the Publick, and the great regard I have for your Personal Self

and that you will beleave me to be most Sincere-

ly

Yours

Charles Lee

General Lee being lame in his right Hand has directed me to write the above for him, & affix his Name thereto

Yours H.b. Serv.t J. Mifflin

Cambridge 23 July 1775

To Gen.l Jn.o Thomas

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